

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 03691 201640Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ACDA-12 SS-15 PM-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 MCE-00
INRE-00 /062 W

-----105716 201721Z /43

O 201541Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1990

S E C R E T CARACAS 3691

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, VE
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS RESTRAINT

REF: STATE 95651 AND 92467

1. I TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI APRIL 19
REGARDING REFTELS, AND HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION IT
BRIEFLY EARLIER TO PRES. PEREZ. LATTER SAID HE WANTED TO
MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS MATTER, AND INSTRUCTED CONSALVI
TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER WITH ME.

2. AFTER I EXPLAINED THE GENERAL IDES WE HAD IN MIND,
CONSALVI SAID HE WOULD WELCOME A TEAM TO DISCUSS THIS
SUBJECT. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS IN MIND
A MUCH MORE PRELIMINARY EXERCISE AND A MUCH SMALLER
GROUP THAN WE DO. CONSALVI SAID HE WANTS TO EXPLORE
THE "POLITICAL DIMENSIONS" FIRST; HE DID NOT THINK THE
GOV WAS READY FOR "TECHNICAL" DISCUSSIONS. HE IS
THINKING ESSENTIALLY OF MEETING WITH THE GROUP HIMSELF,
AND VOLUNTEERED THAT HE ASSUMED THIS WOULD BE NO
MORE THAN TWO OR THREE. I SUGGESTED THE DESIRABILITY
OF INVOLVING OTHER MINISTERIES AND PARTS OF THE
GOVERNMENT. HE WAS INITIALLY RESISTANT TO HAVING
MILITARY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME, STATING

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THAT THAT PHASE MIGHT COME LATER. HE LATER SAID THAT
HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A MILITARY OFFICER ON OUR GROUP,
ALTHOUGH HE AGAIN EMPHAISZED HE DID NOT WANT AT THIS
POINT TO GET INTO "TECHNICAL LEVEL" DISCUSSIONS. HE
IS NOT, HOWEVER, PLANNING AT THIS POINT TO STRUCTURE
A TASK FORCE, ALTHOUGH I THINK WE CAN ARRANGE PART-
ICIPATION OF OTHERS AD HOC.

3. IN SUM, THE TASK BEFORE US IS TILL A PRELIMINARY AND POLITICAL ONE. WE NEED IN A SENSE TO DISCUSS VARIOUS WAYS FOR VENEZUELA TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, AND LAY OUT FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION VARIOUS FACTORS AND OUR OWN EXPRIENCE, IN SHORT TO HELP THEM DEFINE THE ISSUES. ONCE THEY DECIDE TO MOVE, I THINK IT CAN GO ALONG FAIRLY RAPIDLY, AND TECHNICAL DISUCSSIONS MAY WELL FOLLOW.

4. GIVEN THE ABOVE, I WOULD ASK THAT PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI AND ONE REP FROM PM COM DOWN. I DON NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO HAVE THE GROUP RANKED ANY HIGHER, AND GIVEN THE MINISTER'S RESPONSE, I DO NOT THINK IT SHOULD BE ANY LARGER FOR NOW. I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF A MILITARY MEMBER WERE INCLUDED, BUT I DOUBT THAT THE GOV WILL INITIALLY INCLUDE A COUNTER-PART ON THEIR SIDE.

5. AS TO TIMING, CONSALVI INDICATED ANY TIME BETWEEN APRIL 26 AND MAY 20. HE HAS HIMSELF GONE OUT OF TOWN NOW AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL APRIL 24. PLEASE ADVISE. VAKY

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NNN

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